Outdated Laws for protection of Wildlife

319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "Outdated laws threaten wildlife" as reported in "The Statesman" dated the 30 October, 1995.

(b) if so, whether the wildlife is not being properly protected due to outdated laws;

(c) whether there is spurt in sale of Zoo animals in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to bring amendments in the wildlife laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The wildlife (Protection) Act was enacted in 1972 and amended in 1986 and 1991 to make it more stringent and responsive to the current needs.

(c) and (d) There has been no spurt in the sale of zoo animals in the country. Central Zoo Authority under this Ministry controls all transaction related to procurement, sale and transfer of zoo animals belonging to the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, this Ministry has recently set up an inter-state Committee to review the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other related laws.

Decontrolling of Oil Sector

320. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for decontrolling the Oil Sector has since been approved by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The report of "Strategic Planning Group" formed for restructuring of the National Oil Industry is awaited.

Repair/Maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

321. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken and allocation made for the repair/maintenance of roads on the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh in preparation for the onset of monsoons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any work on the roads in Andhra Pradesh has been undertaken since the onset of monsoon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) A sum of Rs. 18.49 crores has been allocated during 1995-96 for annual repair/maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh. In addition, a further sum of Rs. 2.5 crores has been allocated to meet the cost of emergent repairs consequent to the recent flood damages. All efforts are being made to maintain the National Highways in traffic worthy condition.

Telecom Facilities in Villages on Hilly Districts in Uttar Pradesh

322. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: